

F A Q 'S

Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that this series of informational brochures about the Almont Vineyard Church enriches your knowledge about us and deepens your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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F A Q 'S

What does Almont Vineyard
believe about

Baptism?

It's not what you've done in the past, but what you're going to do in the future.

What about baptism?

The first story we read in the gospels about Jesus as an adult is His baptism. The last thing Jesus said to His disciples before ascending into heaven was that they should go throughout the world making disciples and baptizing them. Baptism is obviously a very important activity in the New Testament.

Baptism is also a subject that Christians don't all agree about. We have, nonetheless, tried to be faithful to the bible and faithful to what the church has done historically. Here is how we would answer some of the most frequently asked questions about baptism:

...why should I be baptized?

You don't need to be baptized to be saved. The New Testament teaches that a person is saved by repentance from sin and faith in Christ. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) In Luke 23, the thief on the cross recognized who Jesus was, reached out to Him, and Jesus promised him salvation. That dying thief had no opportunity to be baptized.

You do need to be baptized to be obedient to Jesus. We are commanded to be baptized as a part of being His disciple. As the Apostle Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Thus, we don't get baptized when we "feel like it," or when we "get around to it" or when we are "led to it by the Lord." Baptism is one of only two ordinances or rituals that Jesus commands us to observe for all time. The other is the Lord's Table, or what is often called communion.

Baptism is a public profession of your faith and commitment to Jesus as Lord. Baptism is done before a group of people who witness your confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is not the only way we profess to be a Christian, but it is an important way.

...how should I be baptized?

Almont Vineyard believes that people should be baptized by immersion as opposed to sprinkling or pouring. The term "baptize" (Greek baptizo) literally means to immerse. This was how people in the bible were baptized. The very act of baptism (being immersed in the water and coming up out of the water) is a picture of what happens to you spiritually.

When you become a Christian, you die to sin and your old way of life and you begin a whole new life. Baptism symbolizes your union with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:3-4)

Immersion also symbolizes a washing away of sin and into our new life of Christ (Christian). "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

...when should I be baptized?

You should be baptized as soon as possible after you have personally trusted Christ for salvation and been "born again." Remember, you are not baptized in order to become a Christian. We should not put off baptism, since it is a command of Jesus. Almont Vineyard holds summer baptisms, as well as when the need arises. Please call the church office if you would like to get baptized.

...should I be re-baptized?

As long as you were born again when you were baptized, and as long as the other church was a Christian church, then there is no need to be re-baptized. If, however, your baptism was merely a church ritual done prior to your conversion, or if the church was outside the mainstream of Christianity, then we would encourage you to be re-baptized.

...what if I was baptized as an infant?

Among Orthodox Christians there are different perspectives on infant baptism. Some denominations and traditions baptize infants while others do not. At Almont Vineyard, we do not baptize infants, instead, we dedicate infants to the Lord and call parents to commit themselves to raise their children for Christ. We do this based on the model of infants being dedicated to the Lord in scripture: Samuel in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 1:21-29) and Jesus in the New Testament (Luke 2:21-24).

Perhaps you were baptized as an infant. How should you view that baptism? You certainly want to show respect to your family traditions as well as be respectful to God for any spiritual influence that your parents and others may have had in your life. However, our understanding of what the bible teaches is that baptism is an action that follows conversion. We therefore recommend that if you were 'baptized' as an infant, that you be 'baptized' as a Christian-an outward, public confession of your faith and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

...can my children be baptized?

Absolutely, as long as they understand what they are doing. Almont Vineyard requires that your child/children wait until they can make an informed decision and a knowledgeable profession of faith that is their own. We certainly believe that a young child can be saved, but the older a child is, the more likely that he/she will fully understand the concepts of salvation and baptism-and it will be that much more meaningful for them. Remember, a person does not need to be baptized in order to be saved.

...what should I do if I want be baptized?

If you want to be baptized, then please talk with our Pastor. Please contact the Almont Vineyard if you have any other questions or concerns about Baptism.